



MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2004

TO: Eric Kuhn, Dan Birch

FROM: Jim Pearce

RE: Wolcott Reservoir Study Update

The Wolcott Reservoir Study is approaching a milestone. If you recall, the River District contributed \$25,000 for a phased evaluation and update of “down-sized” options for Wolcott Reservoir. The participants in the study include the Vail Consortium, Northern, Denver Water, and Aurora. On April 27th the technical committee will discuss the draft Wolcott Reservoir alternatives report with participants on the management team.

The report describes the operations and costs associated with three Wolcott storage alternatives. The alternatives are designed to meet a range of water demands. The smallest concept could provide up to approximately 15,000 AF of water supply per year. The largest approximately 35,000 AF of water per year. All of the alternatives would rely on pumping from the Eagle River during wet years and provide yield to the Upper Eagle River by exchange.

The engineering cost analysis indicates that Wolcott Reservoir is expensive at any size. For example, just the costs for the dam range from \$1,300 to \$2,400 per acre-foot of storage. Other project costs would include the drain and fill facilities and annual pumping costs. However, considering the cost and feasibility of other Eagle River Basin water supply alternatives, there may be some promise for the concept. We can update the Board on the details of the Phase I investigations at the July Board meeting. At that time the report should be final.

